



Pedro (Pete) Molina

Assistant Secretary for Native American Veterans
California Department of Veterans Affairs



Pedro (Pete) Molina was appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger in 2010 as the first-in-the-Nation Assistant Secretary for Native American Veterans Affairs for the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet). In January of 2011, Pete was appointed as advisor to U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki on the administration of benefits and services for veterans who are minority group members.

Prior to joining CalVet, Pete advocated for veterans for 39 years as an employee of the Veterans Administration Central California Healthcare Systems in Fresno, California. He served as American Indian Program Manager and Marketing and Community Relations Representative from 1998 to 2010. Pete held the positions of Minority Veteran Program Manager from 1995 to 1997 and Hispanic Veteran Program Manager from 1975 to 1995.

Pete is the Past Pacific Region Commander for the National American Indian Veterans, serving California, Hawaii, Guam and Samoa. In May 2008, he was selected by the National American Indian Veterans to be the first Native American Indian veteran to officially place a Memorial Day wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Pete founded "Molina's Marauders," a group of veteran volunteers who reach out to veterans and veteran families in the community to get them connected to their benefits.

Pete is a member of the Yaqui Nation of Tucson, Arizona and served in the US Army from 1970 to 1973. He was appointed as the EEO National Native American Advisory Council for Veterans Health Administration 1987 to 1993 and appointed as a member of the Department of Veteran Affairs Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans.

Pete has also served veterans in the following capacities:

- Past Commander of the American GI Forum Central California
- Past Commander of Post 99 Am Vets Central CA
- Member of American Indian Veterans Association State of California--the only Native American veteran State organization in California
- Member of American Legion Post 125 Tucson AZ
- Member of the Gathering of Healers of Tucson, Arizona
- Member of National Congress of American Indians, Veteran Advisory Committee
- Member of the National Council of Urban Indian Health Veteran Advisory Committee
- Board Member of the Society of American Indian Government Employees.

Pete believes in "One Goal, One Voice" for all American Indian veterans. What affects one veteran affects all veterans.